

Hot Topics

Our weekly activity

What are Hot Topics?

- Every week, we will have assigned “presenters” (you can find these on the Hot Topics Presenters list in your module)
- Students are required to “present” one time during the semester
- All other weeks you will be responsible for reading your classmates’ Hot Topics presentations and responding to TWO of them by the posted deadline.

When it is your week to “present” (post) Hot Topics

- Start reading the news on legitimate news sites only (no blogs) a few days before you post – your presentation must be timely
- Find three news stories: one for each of the following categories
 - International (anywhere but america!)
 - Local/Bay Area (from San Jose to Oakland)
 - Entertainment (can be sports, tech or entertainment news)

Your Presentation has a few different elements

- For each story (you will have three stories)
 - You are paraphrasing the story in your own words – this should be about one paragraph long
 - You should ask one **open-ended discussion question** about the story that encourages your classmates to engage in analysis of the news, as well as how that news is covered

For Example....

You use this story about Lance Armstrong, an award-winning cyclist who admitted to using illicit drugs to enhance his performance. Here's how you'd set it up

Entertainment <- category

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/lance-armstrong-confesses-doping/story?id=18244003> <--link

Lance Armstrong, a former professional cyclist and seven-time Tour de France winner, was caught in a doping scandal that shook the world of sports. After years of denying any use of performance-enhancing drugs, Armstrong was stripped of his titles and banned from competitive cycling for life when evidence emerged that he had not only used but also encouraged his teammates to use banned substances. Armstrong's downfall marked one of the biggest doping scandals in the history of sports, exposing the dark side of professional cycling and tarnishing the reputation of one of its most celebrated athletes.

You will also need an Open- Ended Discussion Question at the end of each Topic

- A question that is neutral and thought-provoking
- A question that does not have a singular, factual answer

What's the difference between a regular question and an open-ended discussion question?

<u>Regular Question</u>	<u>Open-Ended Discussion Question</u>
<p><i>How many medals did Lance Armstrong win?</i></p> <p>This question only has one answer</p>	<p><i>Do we hold athletes in America to an unrealistic standard that encourages them to “cheat”?</i></p> <p>This question will generate discussion</p>

Make one post for your three Hot Topics: It Should Look like This

- Start with the category, the story and a link to the story. Then, paraphrase the story in your own words. Lastly, follow up with an Open Ended Discussion Question (OEDQ)

For example:

Local News

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/06/26/push-to-rename-oakland-streets-met-with-mixed-reactions>

Da Lin, CBS, 6.26.2020

Oakland has many streets with the names of past presidents, including Jackson, Washington, Jefferson, and many more. Many Oakland citizens agree that the names of these streets should be changed as many of these presidents are known for having slaves and racist pasts. One Oakland resident, Horman Cowan, had said that “All references to slavery should be abolished”. Others disagree, saying that there are many other important matters to focus on. Reginald Ray-Savage, a black artist in Oakland had thought that changing the names of streets was petty, and that it would put less “focus on real change”. Mayor Schaaf is willing to change the street names, if the community agrees it’s a good idea.

OEDQ: Do you think the names of these streets should be changed? If so, what do you think are some other alternatives of names for the aforementioned streets?

Stories that don't work for Hot Topics

- Accidents
- Natural disasters
- Personal stories

These stories don't work because they lead to bad OEDQs and are not conducive to classroom discussion. You should not have questions like this:

“Did you feel the earthquake?” <- lame, lame, lame!

“What do you think caused the accident?” <- how would we ever know?

“Don't you think he deserves the death penalty?” <- leading

Remember:

- Your preparedness and passion count toward your grade. Hot Topics is not an optional activity.
- Please be respectful of your classmates' opinions and contributions to the discussion. We may not all agree...but the point is to GET THINKING.
- Yes, you can use visuals to enhance your presentation. Power Point, links, Images and Videos (classroom appropriate ones!) are all encouraged – but at a minimum, you are required to have a one post with three hot topics (including OEDQs)

Look to find your date in the
module under “Hot Topics
Presenter Dates” and let me know
if you have any questions